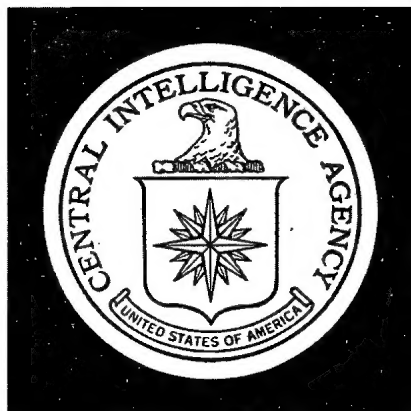




The President's Daily Brief

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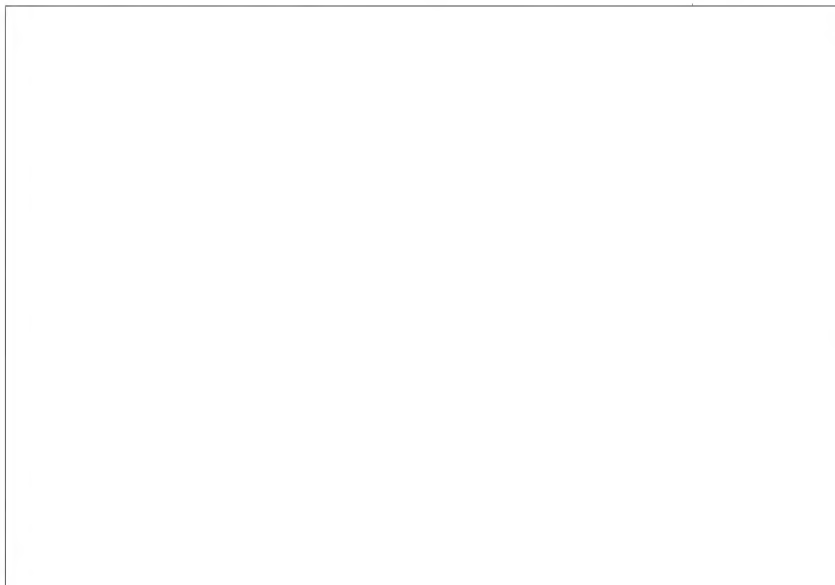
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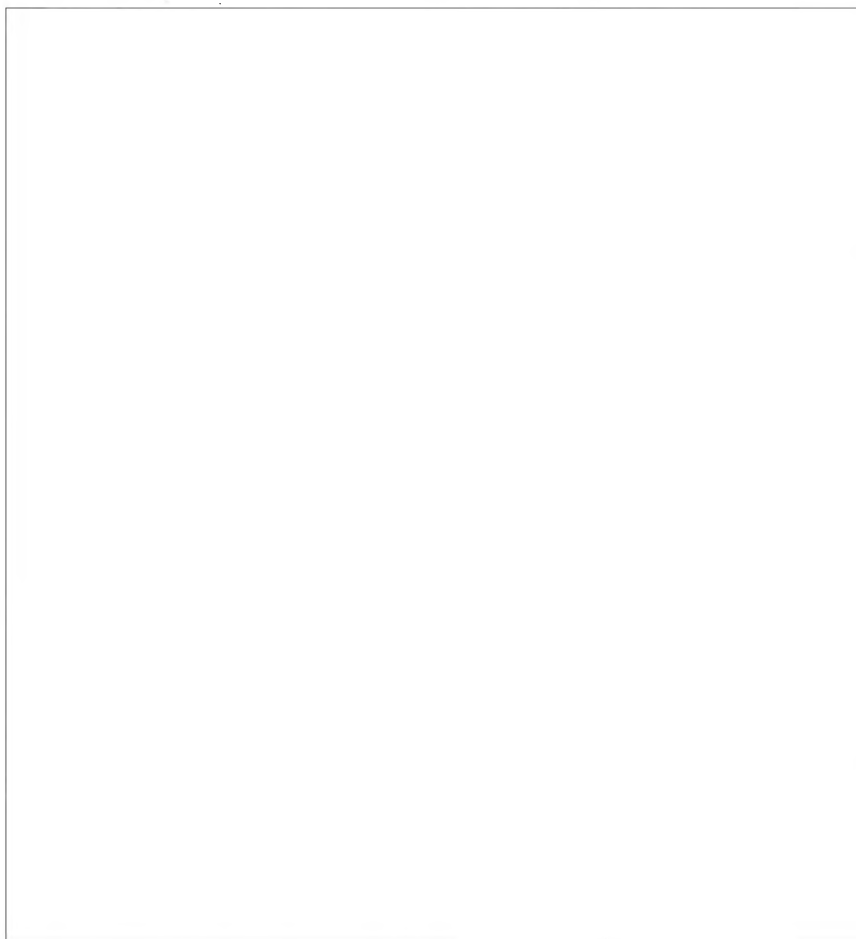
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1. North Vietnam



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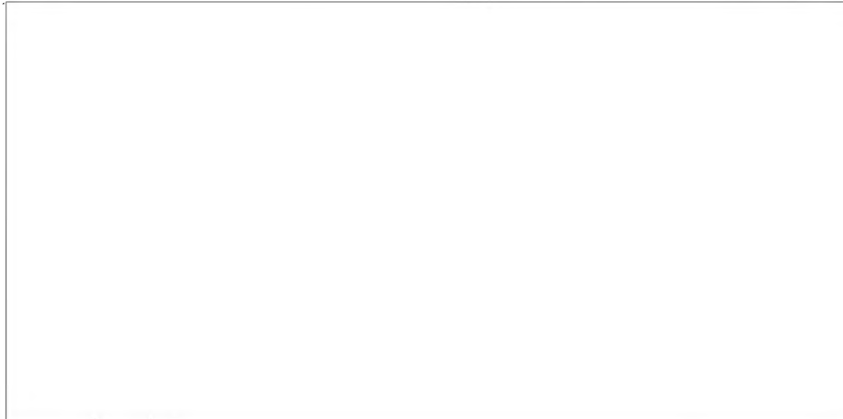
2. Vietnam



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3. Vatican

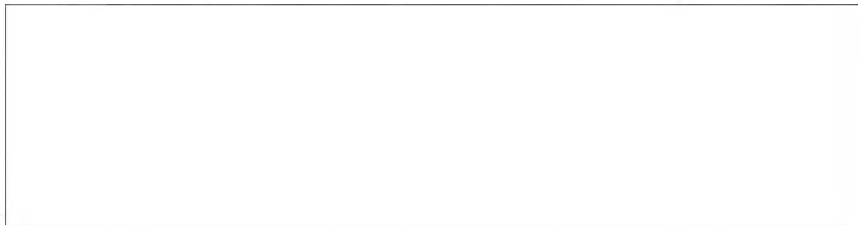
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4. Bolivia

For the third time in three weeks Bolivian troops seem to have come off second best in a clash with guerrillas in the rugged highlands of southeast Bolivia.

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The success of these guerrilla bands against the army could spark similar activity in other parts of the country. The latest incident is also likely to increase bickering among Bolivian officers whose nerves are already raw over the poor showing the troops are making.

5. France

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6. France

De Gaulle has agreed to go to Rome in May for a summit meeting with the chiefs of the other five member states belonging to the European Economic Community. De Gaulle is going on the condition there be no fixed agenda, a tactic which gives him room for maneuver to undermine support for British membership in the Community.

One bit of bait De Gaulle may use is a new offer of French cooperation on the ever-popular concept of European political unity--without Britain.

7. Syria

Damascus, inspired by the concessions on pipeline royalties extracted last month from Iraq Petroleum Company is now putting the squeeze on the American-owned Trans-Arabian Pipeline. This line runs from Saudi Arabia through Jordan and Syria to the Lebanese Mediterranean coast. According to Damascus Radio, Syria has asked company representatives to come at once for talks. Negotiations will not be easy.

8. Soviet Union

Our surmise that Moscow might get a civilian minister of defense turned out to be wrong. Marshal Grechko was named Soviet minister of defense yesterday. He is a 63-year-old professional soldier with a knack for trimming his sails to the prevailing winds from the Kremlin.

Grechko was, for instance, a great Khrushchev supporter, even when it meant selling out old army comrades.

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Grechko will do what he is told and is not likely to make any early changes.

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